

Getting the "Fax" on Cancer Information in English and Spanish

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) operates CancerFax®, a service that distributes current cancer information via a fax machine.

CancerFax provides information summaries on cancer treatment, screening, prevention, and supportive care, directly from the NCI's comprehensive source of current cancer information, the PDQ® database. Most PDQ summaries are available in versions for health professionals (in technical language) and for patients (in non-technical language), and many are also available in Spanish.

CancerFax also includes approximately 100 NCI fact sheets on various cancer-related topics, selected PDQ news items, information on ordering NCI publications, citations and abstracts on cancer topics extracted monthly from the NCI's bibliographic database CANCERLIT®, and additional information on PDQ and its availability. The majority of this information is in English only.

CancerFax is easy to use. Simply call the CancerFax computer (301-402-5874) from the telephone on a fax machine (the machine must be set to touch-tone dialing). After reaching CancerFax, a voice asks you to select either the English or Spanish version. Then, a voice tells you how to acquire the CancerFax contents list, which provides listings of available

information and the corresponding six-digit code numbers. At this point, you can obtain and review a CancerFax contents list.

Call CancerFax again and, once you select either the English or Spanish version, the voice will guide you through the steps to select and receive the information by fax. To request the information, enter the appropriate code number into the handset keypad of the fax machine. The voice will confirm the selection, provide a chance to correct any error, and then prompt you to press the start button and hang up the telephone so that the summary can be faxed to your machine.

Documents vary considerably in length, from 2 pages to more than 30. The prerecorded voice informs users how long the summary is and when it was last updated.

CancerFax can be used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Users must pay for the cost of the telephone call from their fax machine to the CancerFax computer in Bethesda, Maryland. Cost will depend on the length of the transmission and the long distance rates for the user's phone and fax lines.

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Sources of National Cancer Institute Information

Cancer Information Service

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

NCI Online

Internet

Use <http://www.cancer.gov> to reach NCI's Web site.

CancerMail Service

To obtain a contents list, send e-mail to cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov with the word "help" in the body of the message.

CancerFax® fax on demand service

Dial 301-402-5874 and listen to recorded instructions.

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